



A community partner of YaleNewHavenHealth

**TESTIMONY OF
DAY KIMBALL HEALTHCARE
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 19, 2020**

HB 5044, AN ACT CONCERNING IMMUNIZATIONS

Day Kimball Healthcare appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5044, AN ACT CONCERNING IMMUNIZATIONS**. Day Kimball Healthcare supports this bill.

Day Kimball Healthcare is comprised of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group and Day Kimball Healthcare At Home. Our nonprofit community healthcare system is the major provider of comprehensive healthcare services in Northeast Connecticut, serving more than 70,000 of the region's approximately 100,000 residents. Our hospital provides life-saving access to care for approximately 23,000 emergency visits each year, in addition to high quality, efficient care for approximately 500 births, 3,000 surgical procedures and 4,000 inpatients.

Day Kimball Healthcare strives to improve the health of residents in our communities- whether it is partnering with community-based organizations to address social determinants of health, treating a loved one at 2:00 a.m. in the Emergency Department, or employing science-based best practices for infectious disease control.

Spanning the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, vaccines are one of modern medicine's success stories. Immunizations have been embraced across the globe as a prevention strategy for illness, with more than 116 million children worldwide in 2018 immunized against illnesses like diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus. Because of immunization efforts, the world is close to being polio free, with the U.S. being declared polio-free since 1979.

On a regular basis, scientists develop vaccines. Healthcare providers immunize millions of children, adults, and elderly every year to address various emerging diseases, like the annual variation in the strains of influenza. Currently, scientists around the world are working to develop a vaccine for the 2019 novel Coronavirus (2019 Covid-19), a deadly infectious disease currently declared a global health pandemic, which has claimed in excess of 1,000 lives, exceeding the death toll from the SARS outbreak 17 years ago. Without vaccines and robust immunization programs, health impairment and premature death would be the norm.

The science behind the development of vaccines and the practice of immunization are proven to save and improve the lives of countless citizens around the world, in the U.S. and in the state of Connecticut. Hospitals are committed to providing care that is based on best clinical practices that yield the very best outcome.

For these reasons, Day Kimball Healthcare supports HB 5044.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. For additional information, contact John Graham, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Medical Affairs and Quality, Day Kimball Healthcare at (860) 928-6541 ext. 6363.